

the RARS

# Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

November, 2000  
Number 361

## Net Control:

KF4NIR Directs "Traffic"  
at the Duke Liver Center  
Triathlon



**Next RARS Meeting:**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>**  
(Meeting Delayed One Week!!!)

**- Auction -**  
see page 3 for details



## *The Exciter*

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## *The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society*

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).

## *Officers*

<b>President</b>	<b>Tim Nicholson KF4RTX</b> 501-7746 <a href="mailto:kf4rtx@arrl.net">kf4rtx@arrl.net</a>
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## *Info*

### **Repeaters:**

145.13  
146.64  
224.64  
444.525 (88.5 PL)

### **Web Site:**

<http://www.rars.org>

## *President's Corner*

**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX**

### **VOLUNTEERS!**

Hopefully everyone has recovered from the indigestion and heartburn from the State Fair. I don't know about everyone else, but I had a great time. I worked a late shift with Mike KC4WUH on Monday night. We were fortunate to have a very slow night. In fact we didn't have to dispatch a single Red Cross Team, and there was only one transport.



I was very proud to see a full list of volunteers in the Red Cross communications room. From what Gary and other recent event coordinators have told me, you have made their jobs much easier by volunteering your time and talents to their events. I want to thank each one of you who volunteered for these events. Your support of RARS and ham radio is most appreciated. Let's keep up the good work and energetic outpouring of volunteering.

On another note, it's auction time! Do you have your stuff ready to sell? Be sure to read this month's article on the auction to find out about some changes in rules and regulations. For those of you looking for that rare gem, be sure to bring enough cash! You never know what might show up on the table. Make sure to note the change in the meeting day. Also, be sure to remember the RARS Christmas party in December. We'll have lots of goodies to eat, and we're planning to have some good music as well.

See you on the air!

73 de KF4RTX

***Check Into the RARS  
8:00 Net Each Evening  
on the 146.64 Repeater***

## ***10 Meter Net Adds Another Band!***

The RARS 10 Meter Net is conquering yet new territory! Since last Spring, the net has provided a "propagation experiment" for stations checking in by moving mid-net to 75 Meters. The net begins at about 8:30 each Wednesday evening, on 28.364 MHz, and after a round of check-ins and comments, moves to whatever clear 75 Meter frequency the Net Control can find.

Recently, the net has added a third element - 160 Meters! Those with enough copper in the air have made successful contact. Those without find out that an 80 meter dipole, which seems like a lot of wire, is not a very efficient 160 Meter radiator... even if the tuner makes the transmitter happy. Let's see who adds more wire to their array in the coming weeks!

# November Meeting Will Be Annual RARS AUCTION!

*Meeting Delayed One Week To November 14th*

The November RARS meeting, our **Auction** meeting, will be postponed one week to November 14. Our meeting place, the Forest Hills Baptist Church, will be used as a polling place on our usual first Tuesday, and because this is a presidential election year, church officials are worried that there will be too much congestion in the parking lot. So mark your calendar! The November RARS meeting will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of November.

**The Auction will be a little different, too.** We're going to simplify things, and have buyers pay sellers directly, and more or less immediately after bidding on an item. So start rooting through your Treasure Chest (junk box), visit the bank (your wife) and get ready to bid!

And, did we mention the meeting/auction is delayed one week, to November 14th?

## AUCTION RULES

**Amateur Radio & Computer items ONLY!**

**Cash & Carry - No checks.** Bring small bills (the RARS Treasurer will be able to make change, but will not accept checks for change)

**Buyer pays seller directly**, immediately after the sale. RARS takes no cut.

**Label each item** before you come with:

CALL SIGN

FIRST NAME

RESERVE (minimum you will take) if any

Labels will be supplied, if needed

**Donations to RARS accepted.** Label as DONATION. If the item sells, the Treasurer will accept the sale price as a cash contribution and issue a receipt (RARS is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are tax deductible). Unsold items will not be accepted as donations.

**Auction items are sold as is.** RARS accepts no responsibility for auction items or claims made about them.

**Please take unsold items home.** Anything not claimed by the end of the auction will be disposed of by the auction committee (that would be Alan AB4OZ, and Lynn says he doesn't need any more junkue!).



**Tech/Trader Net**  
**8:30 Saturday on 64**  
**Two Nets In One!**

## **PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR**

For details visit [www.rars.org/public-service](http://www.rars.org/public-service)  
or call Bill KG4CXY at 469-0785

### **Raleigh Marathon**

**Sunday, December 3.** To volunteer, contact Ralph Embry KF4NIR at [kf4nir@aol.com](mailto:kf4nir@aol.com).



I attended a great meeting tonight! The Raleigh Marathon event organizers look sharp. They are all experienced and professional. And they need a bunch of amateurs to help them. That's us!

We will provide approximately 35 volunteers. Some will cover an aid station; some will patrol a sector of the course; some

will travel with the race directors and sector chiefs; and some will provide added support. This event will be the premiere public service showcase this year. I am very excited to be involved and am glad to see all of you interested in volunteering your time and talents.

I am going to be meeting with the staff more frequently as race day approaches. I will bring you more info as they decide exactly what their needs will be. Tonight we covered basics.

This event will be from 6am until approximately 2:30-3pm. Start planning power needs now. They said they will provide us with special shirts for race day. And...will feed us!

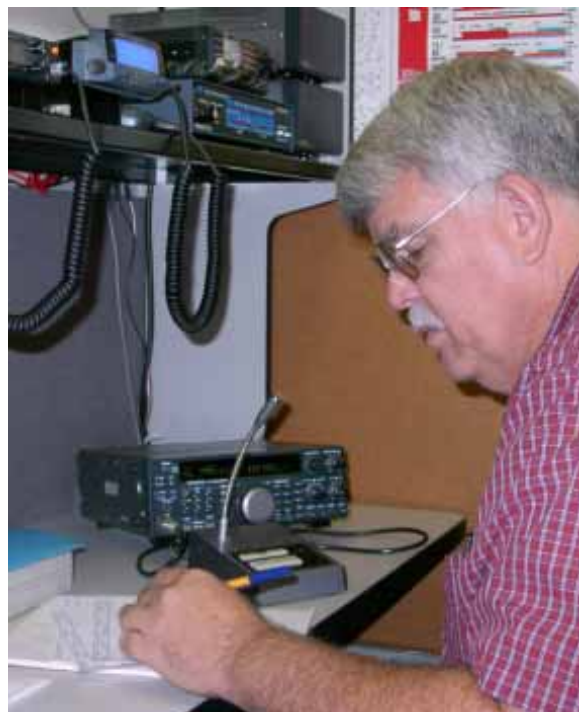
I will put out a race course guide soon and more details will follow.

Thanks again,  
Ralph Embrey  
Communications Coordinator  
Fulcrum Raleigh Marathon  
[kf4nir@aol.com](mailto:kf4nir@aol.com)





*The Dual-VHF Mode of the Kenwood TM-V7 at State EOC permitted monitoring activity on both the 146.88 Raleigh repeater and the 146.805 Rocky Mount repeater being used for that area's SET. Right: Larry KG4FIQ copies a message for the State EOC. Below: Wake EC Ron KG4FJA takes his turn at traffic handling*



## State EOC/SKYWARN Support NC Counties in SET

Tornados swept through Wilson, Nash and Edgecomb Counties on October 7th... *simulated* tornados, that is, part of a multi-county Simulated Emergency Test. Amateurs in those counties activated very busy ARES nets on several repeaters. Their activity was supported by operation at both the State EOC and the National Weather Service SKYWARN stations in Raleigh. John Guerriero



KG4HDT found his feet in the simulated fire as the SKYWARN Net Control on 146.88, while Wake County EC Ron Ford KG4FJA, Larry Holt KG4FIQ and Gary Pearce KN4AQ practiced handling formal message traffic on the Tar Heel Net frequency 3923 kHz, and several VHF frequencies at the State EOC.

## Wake ARES Weekly Nets Begin Thursday, Oct. 26

**Wake County ARES will begin a new weekly net**, starting Thursday, Oct. 26. Wake ARES EC Ron Ford KG4FJA said the net will be held on the PCRN 146.88 repeater at about 9:10 pm, immediately following the Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net, which is held nightly at 9 pm on 88.

Ron chose 146.88, rather than the main Wake ARES repeater of 145.39 (82.5 Hz tone) to give the net greater exposure, beginning with the existing PCTN "audience." The net will always begin on 88, but may move "mid-net" to other repeaters around the county to give ARES members experience with each repeater. It's also an interesting exercise in seeing how people can fall into a radio "black hole" when moving from one frequency to another.

Plans are also under way for a **Wake ARES SET** sometime in November. Stay tuned to the Wake ARES net, and the RARS nets for information.

## 40 Meter Expert Wanted

### Do You Know 40 Meters?

Do you know the propagation, day and night?

Do you know the story behind the differences between our 300 kHz wide band in Region 2, and the 100 kHz wide band in Regions 1 and 3? The details of our "sharing" the top 200 kHz with shortwave broadcasters?

Do you know the band plan and utilization for all the regions? Where do the Europeans, Africans and Asians use phone... where do they use cw? How does that affect our Novice/Tech band? How do they operate "split" to hear our voice signals in the middle of a broadcast band? What about data?

Do you know about *harmonizing* the band worldwide, at the next WRC? How we may lose 100 kHz so the rest of the world can gain 100 kHz?

Do you know how many of your fellow RARS members don't know this... but would like to?

Share your expertise in the **Exciter** - contact the Editor!

**40 Meters is too good a band not to know.**



## K4LNX License Plate Graces DMV Website

**Karl Ulrich K4LNX**

*[While cruising the DMV website for info on transferring titles and license plates, I came across this DMV web page, with RARS member Karl K4LNX's license plate proudly displayed. The URL is too long to include here, but you can go to the DMV web site at [www.dmv.state.nc.us](http://www.dmv.state.nc.us) and navigate through "License Plates," then "Special Interest Plates," and finally click the "Amateur Radio" button. Karl picks up the story about how his plate may have come to be featured... KN4AQ]*

Later that month, I finally got a call back. It turns out that when I went to the tag office, they entered my request for an Amateur Radio tag into the wrong computer screen, which happened to have some woman in Hillsborough's name and address on it.

Apparently, my tag was sent to this woman's house. She didn't know what it was, so she sent it back and it was "destroyed". In the meanwhile, the registration on her car was canceled, and so was mine. I ended up driving around for a few months in an unregistered car before this was all settled.

After a few more months of calls to the DMV office, a few calls downtown, and a free registration "for my trouble", I finally got my Amateur Radio tag. I suspect the original tag was never really destroyed; I'd think it was just lying around the office when they needed an example for their website.

Anyway, I'll be signing autographs at next month's meeting and auctioning off a chance to sit in the now famous K4LNX-mobile!

Earlier this year, I went to the South Hills Mall DMV License store to register for my Amateur Radio plate. When my turn in the long line came, I gave them my \$10, my call and my car's VIN. In return, they gave me a 30 day tag, and said to expect the callsign tag within 30 days.

One month passed. There was nothing in the mail from the DMV. I called the office and spoke with someone, who said they'd need to get back with me. A week later, no one called back, so I called them, and they told me they needed my car's VIN, which I didn't have at the time.

I called back a few days later with the VIN. They said they'd call me back later that day.



## FCC Creates Unlicensed Five-Channel VHF CB Service

**ARRL Bulletin**

With no fanfare, the FCC is set to authorize a new Citizens Band Radio Service to be called the Multi-Use Radio System, or MURS. The service, which came about as part of the biennial review of Part 90 of the FCC's rules, will deploy five former Private Land Mobile Radio Service VHF "color dot" channels for voice, data and imaging transmissions. The channels - 151.82, 151.88, 151.94, 154.57 and 154.60 - will be authorized for up to 2 W on an unlicensed basis under Part 95 of the FCC's rules.

The establishment of MURS was buried within a huge Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making released this summer as WT Docket 98-182 and PR Docket 92-235. The FCC said it will "revisit" the issue of allocating additional MURS channels "at a later date should additional support develop." The effective date to deploy MURS is pending completion of the FCC proceeding.

## ARRL Web Site Opens "News" to All



The ARRL has moved **Amateur Radio News** to the home page of their redesigned web service: [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). Until recently, this feature was available only to League members in the **Web Extra**, part of the **Members Only** section of the site. The League drew criticism for that exclusivity, but always responded that the important stories that made up the **News** were also available as ARRL Bulletins and the ARRL Letter, both available to the non-members. But nothing matched the depth and immediacy of the stories in the **News** reports.

### FIELD DAY RESULTS: WAIT TILL NEXT MONTH

The **Members Only** area of the League web page continues to carry exclusive content. Feature stories continue in the **Web Extra**, and advance information about product reviews and contest results from the next issue of **QST** are still available, as are several years of product review archives.

Speaking of contest results... the 2000 Field Day results are NOT posted, and are not in the November **QST**. Looks like we'll have to wait 'till the December issue to see if RARS won the 8A Class.





## Public Service

# We Work for T-Shirts...

Of course, as hams we are not permitted to accept compensation. The T-Shirts are provided to identify volunteers. Yeah, that's it... identification...



Karl K4LNX (2nd from left - yes, the same K4LNX with the license plate) coordinated communications for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light the Night" walk around downtown Raleigh. These are just some of the hams who participated.



## Duke Half-Ironman

Eric KG4CXW coordinated hams for the **Duke Liver Center Half-Ironman Triathlon**, held on Jordan Lake and nearby roads. **Our cover picture** shows Ralph KF4NIR as net control. To the left is his whole station - a worthy Field Day effort including guyed, telescoping mast.. Below: Matt W2BYV covered the nautical end of the event in his kayak. Right: Eric chases after the the event director he was shadowing. Eric said "I didn't know I was going to have to get in shape *myself* for this event!"







A Red Cross First Aid Team at the State Fair calls in as they prepare to transport a patient back to the First Aid Station. Amateur Radio operators staffed the station's radio room filling a total of 60 5-hour shifts, covering all 10 days of the Fair. Business frequencies were used for all communications, and a few non-hams helped out.



Back at the First Aid Station, Phil KF4IUU and Bruce KC4UQN handle phones, intercoms and radios putting them in services.



Dick KD4ISC coordinated communications for the American Diabetes Assn. walk in Umstead Park on Saturday, October 14. Dick had lots of help, including a pair of John Jaskolka's: son John R - KG4HGB (left), and dad John C - N4YRD, (center, which leaves Dick as the fellow on the right). The hams covered the walk through Umstead, and several remote parking sites in Raleigh, Garner, Cary, Chapel Hill and Durham. The PCRN's 146.88 and StARS 146.775 repeaters covered the distance



Mike KC4WUH operated from the Glenwood Ave. remote parking lot.



Most of the route was on the Umstead bridle trails, so vehicle traffic was restricted. Jeff AC4ZO operated bicycle mobile to shadow one of the event leaders.



Greg KG4AWG (above) handled Net Control duties, while his wife Joanie KG4IYW, and what looks like a lot of radio equipment, staffed the finish line. Also assisting were Bob and Marian KG4FIO/KG4IYM, Bob KG4IZA and John AG4BM, among many others



# Why I Like HF

**Bob Conder K4RLC**

Ever since I was a young child in a small town in North Carolina, listening to the old Victrolas my family had, hearing the stories and seeing the souvenirs that my grandfather and father brought back from Europe, Africa or Japan from the two great World Wars, I have dreamed of faraway places. Thankfully, in my lifetime, there has not been a world war, so my contact with overseas has been by radio.

When first interested in ham radio in the early 60's, I was excited about the prospect of actually talking via radio with someone overseas. But growing up, and having no Elmers like Gary or Jeff or Neal around, I had to settle for building an elaborate SWL shack in the unheated basement, with a longwire and dipole in the backyard. (Back then, neighbors understood the mystique and importance of radio communication.)

DXing meant staying up until the wee hours of the night digging stations out of the QRM and QRN with the bandspread dial and BFO of the Hallicrafters S-120 (which I still have), and sending letters and IRCs to big and small stations to finally win a 75 countries verified award from the **American Short Wave Listeners Club**.

It also meant hearing my father yell when the letters came from the FBI, preceding the QSLs and propaganda from the Soviet block countries. Yes, I would write the FBI, send the propaganda, because that was the only way to get the cherished QSL card. But I would still listen to the hams on 80 and 40 meter AM phone and CW and dream of being there.

For some reason last year, the spirit moved me, almost 40 years later. An Internet search turned up an organization called **RARS** that actually gave ham classes! I was amazed! Like a kid with a new toy and afraid of breaking it, I tentatively approached the class but soaked up every word, listening with more interest than to any of my graduate school professors. After passing the test, I actually got a ham license! Did those fools at the FCC know what they were doing, giving me a license after my accepting commie propaganda and commie QSLs? It took over two weeks to first check into a 2 meter net, and then only with the encouragement of Mr. Pete, W4TKY, in Myrtle Beach, who is now a silent key. Despite my not having time to take their cw course, Neal N4HAF and Charlie W4VFJ still provided encouragement and strategies that led to my easily passing the exam with solid copy.

Then, the world was open, first on 10 meter sideband; then, with the General, all the bands at some level with the monster dipole built and installed by Neal and Dale W4AUV. Finally, my childhood dream came true: actually being able to talk with people around the world. I can't explain the thrill of talking with Rudy who tells about the rain coming down in sheets on the banks of the Volgograd River and ends the QSO by saying how much he has enjoyed talking with "my friend, Bob" in his deep Russian accent. Or the other friendly accents from Puzant in Beirut, Fazilc in Turkey, Chartchai in Thailand, or Murtadha in Oman. Or being able to talk with the Cubans without hearing the buzzsaw jamming that Castro used against the VOA or Radio Swan. Or the pure magic of hearing a CW station reply with your call sign in response to a tentative CQ. It doesn't get much better than this.



*K4RLC with his original Hallicrafters S-120, and a somewhat more modern Icom 746*

So what's next? Two things: working on a DXCC as quickly as possible. And setting up a HF rig in the jeep. I've already got the rig and the heavy Nye CW paddle that is going to be held down by bungee cords next to the shift lever. But the best part is when my young kids are in the shack and hear the friendly voices from far away, and ask Daddy to show them on the world map where Rudy or Chartchai lives, and to watch their eyes grow big with amazement. It *really* doesn't get any better than that.

## KG4CXW Thanks Duke Triathlon Operators

Just a little note to say thank you, Thank You, and **THANK YOU AGAIN!!!!** The Duke Liver Center Triathlon went very well. I have worked a few public service events in the past, but this was my first attempt at coordination of an event. I just wanted to say that I could not have asked for a more professional, or more experienced team of well trained Amateur Radio Operators. Every single operator involved ran a "First Class Radio Station," and your efforts toward the success of this event was noticed by me, the coordinators, and The Duke Liver Center. Without your assistance, my first attempted at coordination would not have been a success. I might even give it another try :-).

RARS Public Service Director Bill KG4CXY mentioned that the date for next years Triathlon will be confirmed in the next 30 to 90 days. I'm sure he would love to have each one of you back next year.

Thanks again, and 73

Eric F. Haywood - KG4CXW



# MS-150 - Comments from the Field

## NZØI's View from the Saddle:

I listened to better than 95% of the MS-150 support net while pedaling the 150 miles from Raleigh to Emerald Isle. I was impressed with the discipline and professionalism with which communications were conducted on the net. It was an education in how communications support should be handled.

A number of interesting coincidences occurred during my ride. Though I never had occasion to check into the net myself, I felt like I was part of the action. For those of you who choose to ride the MS-150 in the future, consider the following to be reasons for taking along your HT!

I was less than an hour into the ride on Saturday when I heard on the net that a cyclist had been sagged to a rest stop in need of a tube for his flat tire. That rest stop was just a few minutes ahead of me. The rider with the flat couldn't mask his surprise when I pulled into the rest stop, rode straight up to him like I expected to see him there, and asked if he'd like one of the spare tubes I'd brought along.

There were numerous other times during the ride that my eavesdropping came in handy. I knew which rest stops were short on supplies, and which ones had plenty. I heard where the dangerous corners were, and where the course markings weren't as clear as they should be. I, and those I was able to inform, knew to pick up their "century patches" at the first rest stop, even though the organizers had forgotten to tell the riders. From the reports of the SAG vehicles and rest stop communicators I was also kept abreast of how far behind the fastest riders I was. (I could have done without that humbling piece of information.)

I was still busy calculating my ETA to the last reported loose dog when a large rat shot out of a corn field to my left, and nearly threw himself under the front wheel of a female rider just ahead of me. The rider and her friend who witnessed the near rat collision were noticeably shaken by the incident... but were not about to dismount their bicycles before the next rest stop. I considered reporting the loose rat to the net, but decided against it since, judging by the size of the rodent, it might as well have been a small dog... and I doubted it had an owner.

Again, thank you to everyone who helped with the MS-150.

Charles Scharlau, NZØI

## KG4CXR Learns the Ropes:

This was my first year with the MS150 so I chose a rest stop. My husband, Jim KG4FIJ wanted to be in a SAG wagon. I was placed at the last rest stop so he could meet me there and we'd go on home. It didn't turn out quite that easy.

My day started early and with another amateur radio operator KF4UQZ Liz, we were placed at rest stop 5. We waited there with four other people when somebody called net control saying they needed more help at rest stop 5. We had to scramble around to find the people who called in for help. It so happened they were behind the building from where we were.

The first two bike riders came into view and passed us about 11 am. They waved as they went flying by. It was a long time before we saw the first real set of riders. We all cheered and welcomed the riders.

We had very little communications with the net control until we ran out of water and tried to find more. We also had the EMS stop by and wondered where they should go. The repeater seemed busier than I've ever worked with so I wasn't sure how to get an answer for the EMS. They finally went on to the end of the race. I never did get an answer.

We had planned on going home when all the riders went through our area, but Jim was with the main SAG wagon, so he wanted to go to the end of the course. We didn't stay this year for the next day's activities, but we sure will next year. It was a lot of fun and it was neat meeting the riders and the MS-150 workers. We'll be one of the first to signup next year.

Denyse Walter KG4CXR

## KG4FIJ - Sounds Like Fun... What Is It?:

As a new ham (less than 1 year) I knew I wanted to get involved in public service events, but I also knew that I wanted to ease into it.

I'd previously worked a triathlon, which was a rather small event that took only about 3-4 hours of my time, and it was fun. Well, my wife Denyse

KG4CXR said, "Why don't we work the MS-150 Bike Ride?" OK, sounds like fun - what is it?

Well, I found out that it's a 150-mile bike ride that covers two days (75 miles per day). Yikes! Just thinking about the logistics of that was rather daunting! So, I offered to compromise and work just the first day. (My version of "easing" into public service work.)

Well, Denyse and I showed up in Clayton early (real early) Saturday morning, HT's and extra batteries in hand (I even had a mobile mag-mount antenna and a cigarette lighter adapter cord!). It was a beautiful day and with all the hub-bub going on during the pre-race, I knew this was big stuff.

Then came the "operator's meeting." I can tell you, I spent 26 years in the military, and I was involved in some major military exercises that weren't as logistically complex as this.

We were going to use 4 repeaters and 2 simplex frequencies during the entire event, with 2 net controls in charge at all times. Needless to say, I was impressed (and a little nervous). It turned out that I was a "ride along" SAG (Support And Gear) operator, and I had the great pleasure of riding with Phoebe, one of the owners of the Spin Cycle bike shop in Cary. She was a wonderful companion, and very experienced in sagging (which was good for me!).

However, we did get off to a shaky start. We were requested to back-track on the "century loop" course, which is kind of a "head start" loop of 25 miles for those super-human folks who need to ride at least 100 miles in a day. Well, that required us to read the course map backwards, which isn't a good thing to try right at the very beginning of your first major event.

I won't go into details about our navigational shortcomings, but let me just say that we didn't see any bikers for about the first hour. Anyway, we finally got on track and the rest of the day went very well. Phoebe was very good at making me feel important, and I learned a lot about bikes. I don't think I made very many operating errors (at least I haven't heard from the "official observer"). Phoebe and I parted at the end of the day with the agreement that we will work together again next year, for BOTH days. The whole day gave me a great feeling of pride to be an amateur radio operator, and I look forward to many more public service events.

Jim Walter KG4FIJ

Learn more about the MS-150 at: [www.rars.org/ms-150](http://www.rars.org/ms-150)



Eastern North Carolina Chapter



BEACH OR BUST!

## ***For Sale - Autos***

**Ham's car for sale!** The semi-famous KN4A Q-mobile is on the block. I'll declare this an acceptable Amateur Radio item for the **Exciter** because I'm the Editor, and because it comes wired for three antennas, audio and power distribution.

The car is a 1992 Saturn SL-2 with about 135,000 miles. It's in good mechanical and cosmetic condition. It has automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, air conditioning (already converted to the non-freon system), rear window defroster, premium stereo/cassette, cruise control.

The ham stuff includes three NMO antenna mounts in real holes (one on the roof, two on the trunk deck), a 12 V power distribution block wired to the battery, and an audio amp/coupling system to the front stereo speakers (puts a dual-band mobile's audio into the right and left speakers). Sorry, the radios are not included, but I could be persuaded to toss in one dual-band Larsen whip.

Asking \$2000. Contact Gary KN4AQ: [kn4aq@arrl.net](mailto:kn4aq@arrl.net) or 380-9944



*The Q-mobile on duty at Thad Eure Walk - it could be yours!*

## **Alphanumeric Systems, Inc. Service Center**

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## ***Graham Repeater Assn. Seeks Support***

**Frank A. Lynch, W4FAL**  
**GRA Wake/Durham County Control Op**

As the Control Op and Fundraising Chairperson for Wake and Durham Counties for the Graham Repeater Association, it's that time of year to help Dave and Pete out with distributing some of the financial burden of running a large repeater system like GRA.

As some of you already know, one of GRA's big ongoing expenses is liability insurance for the five tower sites. This is a recurring yearly expense that can be easily paid if all the users of the system will contribute \$20.00 per year. (If you want to contribute more, that's fine too!) When you look at the thousands of dollars that Dave and Pete initially spent putting this system together out of their own pocket, it's the least we can do as users of the system.

For an interesting technical overview visit the GRA website <http://www.evfd.org/gra/>

Mail your contributions to:  
Graham Repeater Association, Inc. (GRA)  
Post Office Box 1103  
Graham, NC 27253-1103



**RARS Dinner:**  
**4th Tuesday at**  
**Fat Daddy's on**  
**Glenwood Ave.**





# Club Meeting Minutes

October, 2000

Minutes of the Regular October RARS Meeting - October 3, 2000

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on October 3, 2000 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX, who welcomed 64 members and 3 guests. David, N4YTO gave the Treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 275.

KN4AQ said a few words about Public Service, and specifically the State Fair. Sign-up sheets were circulated. He also thanked the volunteers who helped with the successful MS-150 Bike Tour in September.

NC Section Manager John Covington W4CC was then introduced and assumed center stage to say a few words. He was warmly received, and then passed along several news items.

KD4ISC was next on the podium. He is organizing a walk-a-thon on October 14 in Umstead Park, for the American Diabetes Association.

President Nicholson then announced that **the RARS meeting for November has been rescheduled for the SECOND Tuesday of the month** because of the Election on the first Tuesday. The program is the auction.

KN4AQ, now wearing the hat of the Exciter Editor, announced that a deal has been struck with the printer that will enable him to print **color** covers.

K4HF told of a complete Collins S-line station that had been donated to the Club for sale. The sale raised about \$3,000 for the club.

AB4OZ announced the Maysville hamfest coming up this coming Sunday.

With that completing the announcements, Tim introduced the Speaker for the evening: Matt, W2BYV with a program on APRS.

Door prizes went to KG4HJC, W4CC, AD4RC, W2JNW, KE4CSZ, and WD4KSE. The meeting adjourned at 9:06p.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO, Secretary

## Board Meeting Minutes

Sept, 2000

Minutes of the RARS September Board Meeting - September 19, 2000

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on September 19. The meeting was called to order by President Tim Nicholson KF4RTX at 7:33p. Members present at that time were: KN4AQ, KG4CXR, K4HF, AB4OZ, KO4QH, KF4RTX, N4YRD, and AC4ZO. The total attendance was 9. On motion by KN4AQ, seconded by K4HF, the minutes of the August meeting were approved.

N4YTO gave the Treasurer's report. He said that the membership stands at 275.

In the Vice President's report, KF4RTX Tim said that the SERA and PCRN program was a big success. We are looking forward to W2BYV and APRS in the October meeting.

### Committee Reports:

KN4AQ gave the FM committee report. He reports the N4IXL has relocated to California and will not continue as FM chairman.

KO4QH reported on the Education Department. She said that an event is being planned at Washington GT school for an evening this fall. The exact date is not available yet. Lynn would like to see us do more of these operations. A question was raised about the stability of the Nortel facility where we teach the classes. No issue was found to exist. The next class is scheduled for late February.

KN4AQ, now wearing the hat of the Exciter Editor, said that the October issue is ready to go to press, but has been held up because of a scheduling conflict with the meeting room for the November

meeting. The Exciter will go to press after this Board meeting when the schedule for November has been resolved. The topic of printing the front and back pages of every issue in color was brought up. We have asked ICON for a particular rate, and are awaiting their answer.

KG4CXR said in the Membership Services report that she is doing well with the membership cards, and all is running very smoothly.

K4HM reported on the Hamfest committee. A preliminary meeting was held in which the financial report from last year was very nearly completed. Hank expects to bring a proposed budget for next year's fest to the October Board meeting. Hank also indicated that he may make some changes to the financial reporting structure. Help is still needed in the areas of Flea Market Advanced Registration, RARS table, and a Co-chairman is needed. There is a hamfest meeting planned for Monday, September 25 at KF4RTX.

K4HF is leading the Nominating Committee through the Fall nominations. The report is expected to be made at the October General meeting.

### Old Business:

The issue of the Articles Of Incorporation was brought up once again. The issue is being worked, and is expected to be completed by the October Board meeting.

A discussion took place concerning logo items. This item comes from a member request for apparel. Ideas were brought up and tossed about. Finally a motion was made by AB4OZ that we research costs for logo items. Seconded by N4YRD, the motion passed. K4HM took the action to do the research.

### New Business:

The Church is asking us to move our November meeting to November 14th because of a Presidential Election. A motion was made by K4HF that we schedule our November meeting for November 14. The motion was seconded by N4YTO and was carried.

On a related topic, the annual auction was discussed. Both the schedule, and the mechanics of how the financials could be handled were discussed. A motion was made by K4HF that we hold the auction on November 14, and that participants handle their own financial transactions. The motion was seconded by N4YRD and passed. The arrangements will be handled by AB4OZ.

### Comments and Announcements:

KN4AQ said a few words about the MS-150 this past weekend. 37 hams participated, and there were about 500 bike riders. AB4OZ inquired about the RARS 2000 committee. KO4QH asked for a list of tasks that need to be done for the auction to be successful. KG4CXR announced the Triangle Women's net. With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 9:05p.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO - Secretary

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## Snapshots



**Above:** Matt W2BYV describes APRS at the October RARS meeting.

**Right: Send down Darleen!**  
A common request at the First Aid Station at the Fair. This is Darleen, visiting Greg KG4AWG and Joanie KG4IYW.



## Thanksgiving

*Gosh, here it is November already. Seems like we were just here, fretting about the Y2K thing. But enough of that...*

*Thanksgiving brings with it one of the nicest holidays of the year. Nice because for most of us, it means two days off work.*

*What are you thankful for? I'm thankful for (among other things): two days off work; A job to take two days off from; an XYL who's friends with the radios (real thankful for that); Riley Hollingsworth; ham friends; Polish sausage; ice cream; and Sunspots.*

*Jeff, AC4ZO*

## Hamfest Calendar

**Nov. 19:** JARSfest (Benson)  
**December:** none!  
**January 21:** Richmond, VA *Frostfest*

courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal

